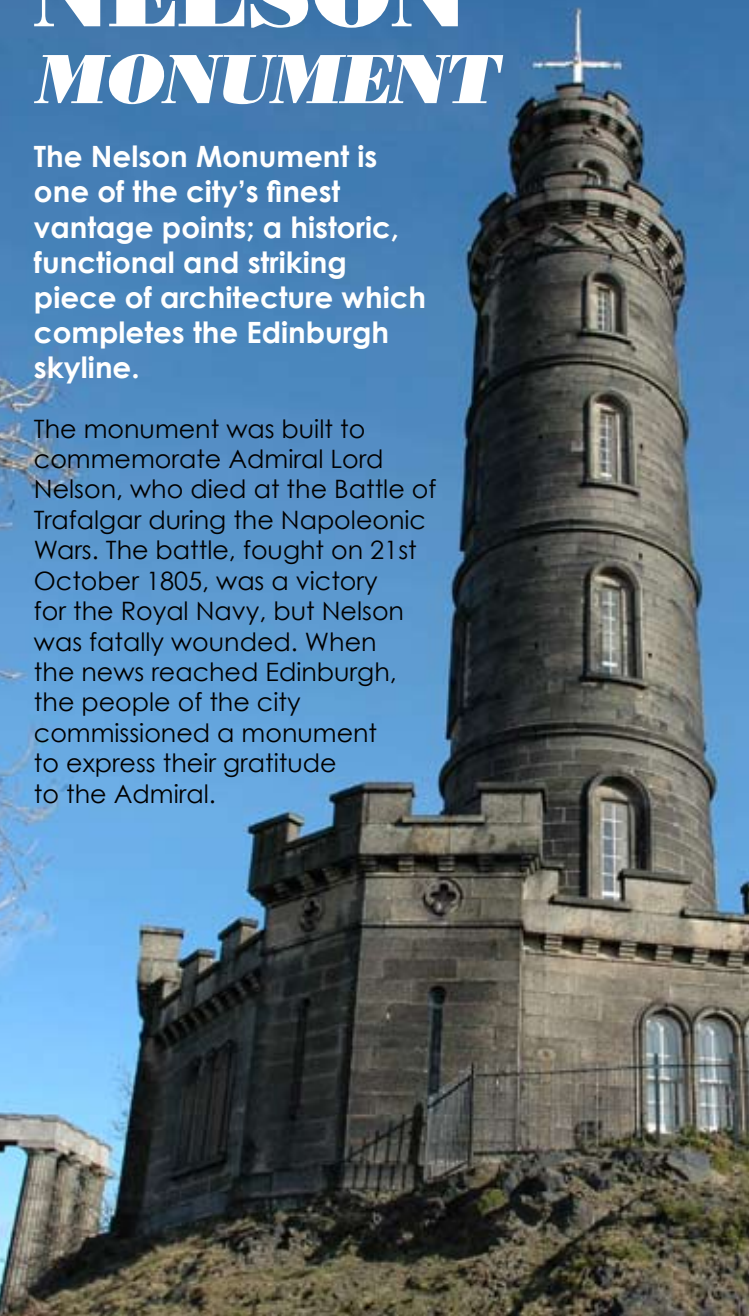


# NELSON MONUMENT

The Nelson Monument is one of the city's finest vantage points; a historic, functional and striking piece of architecture which completes the Edinburgh skyline.

The monument was built to commemorate Admiral Lord Nelson, who died at the Battle of Trafalgar during the Napoleonic Wars. The battle, fought on 21st October 1805, was a victory for the Royal Navy, but Nelson was fatally wounded. When the news reached Edinburgh, the people of the city commissioned a monument to express their gratitude to the Admiral.



The Nelson Monument actually took a decade to complete. Though the design was chosen in 1806 and building work began on the Calton Hill site in 1807, a lack of money meant the monument remained incomplete until 1816. The building was designed by the architect Robert Burn, perhaps to represent an upturned telescope and make a subtle reference to Nelson's naval career.



**Look out for** - the stern of a ship projects out above the entrance. This represents the Spanish ship the San Joseph, one of the two vessels which Nelson captured in a daring fight during the Battle of Cape Vincent in 1797.

In 1852 a Time Ball was installed at the top of the monument. It was the idea of Professor Charles Piazzi Smith who could see its use in helping ships to navigate at sea. The ball would drop at exactly One o'Clock as a signal to ships moored in the Firth of Forth, so that they could check the accuracy of their clocks and correctly calculate their longitude at sea.



In bad weather a visual signal was not enough, and so in 1861 the One o' clock Gun from Edinburgh Castle was introduced. Both time signals still operate six days a week.

From the top the Nelson Monument there are stunning panoramic views of Edinburgh, with buildings such as the Scottish Parliament and the Castle competing with the scenery of Arthur's Seat, Salisbury Crags and Princes Street Gardens.

For more information visit [www.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk) and [www.ewht.org.uk](http://www.ewht.org.uk)

**The Nelson Monument is open:**  
**1st October- 31st March: Mon – Sat 10am – 3pm**  
**1st April - 31st September: Monday 1pm – 6pm;**  
**Tue – Sat 10am – 6pm**  
**Admission charges apply**